AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment comprising:

a coded signal input unit ~~for receiving~~ operable to input coded AV ("audio, video, or audio video") signals;

a decoding unit ~~including means for reproducing said~~ operable to decode the coded AV signals inputted from said coded signal input unit, and further operable to generate AV signals to be reproduced;

an identification code generating unit ~~including means for generating~~ operable to generate an identification code ~~by which a~~ specifying the reproduction equipment ~~can be specified~~;

a digital watermark embedding unit ~~including means for embedding said~~ operable to input the AV signals to be reproduced from said decoding unit to embed the identification code generated by said identification code generating unit as a digital watermark ~~in~~ into said AV signals to be reproduced, wherein a digital watermark embedded signal is generated ~~signals input from said decoding unit~~; ~~and~~

an output unit operable to output the digital watermark embedded AV signals; ~~and, which outputs to an exterior, AV signals containing embedded therein said digital watermark prepared by said digital watermark embedding unit~~

said identification code generation unit is further operable to convert the identification code into a binary bit string, each position of a specific value bit of the binary bit string indicating a corresponding signal sequence among a plurality of signal sequences, and still further operable to output the binary bit string as an output of said identification code generating unit;

wherein an output of said identification code generating unit is composed of a plurality of signal sequences.

3. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein said identification code is at least one of an equipment ID of said reproduction equipment, a card ID of an IC card connected to said reproduction equipment, a user ID of a user of the reproduction equipment, a raw material ID of said coded AV signals, a medium ID of a recording medium in which said coded AV signals are stored, a reproduction date and time, and an initial value of a signal sequence to be embedded among the plurality of the signal sequences as said digital watermark.

4. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment as set forth in claim 2, wherein an output of said identification code generating unit is further operable to convert the identification code into the binary bit string utilizing includes a plurality of signal sequences, and a table of correspondence of at least one of character strings and numbers[[,]] that express identification codes, and means for employing a correspondence for selection of a corresponding signal sequence among the plurality of said signal sequences.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment as set forth in claim [[4]] 2, wherein said plurality of signal sequences are signal sequences with which cross correlation values are smaller than a previously set threshold value.

7. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment as set forth in claim 4, wherein said digital watermark embedding unit embeds a different signal sequence in each of a predetermined unit of said AV signals to be reproduced.

8. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment as set forth in claim 7, wherein said digital watermark embedding unit embeds a plurality of signal sequences, to be embedded as the digital watermark, randomly at a same proportion per fixed time in said AV signals to be reproduced.

9. (Currently Amended) The reproduction equipment as set forth in claim 1 2, further comprising means for recording a unit operable to record a copy of said digital watermark-embedded AV signals onto a recording medium.

10. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment specifying equipment comprising:

an input unit[[;]] means for inputting operable to input AV signals containing a binary bit string, each position of a specific value bit of the binary bit string indicating a

corresponding signal sequence among a plurality of signal sequences of the same contents as that of a reproduction equipment, ~~an identification code~~ the binary bit string being embedded in the AV signals ~~therein~~ as a digital watermark;

a signal sequences recording unit[[;]] ~~said signal sequences recording unit including means for holding~~ operable to record the plurality of signal sequences ~~a correspondence table of the same contents as that of a reproduction equipment~~;

a correlation value calculation unit ~~including means for calculating~~ operable to calculate correlation values of ~~input~~ the AV signals and all of said signal sequences ~~contained in said correspondence table~~ recorded by said signal sequence recording unit and ~~for outputting~~ further operable to output a maximum correlation value among correlation values obtained;

a threshold value setting unit ~~including means for setting~~ operable to set a threshold value for said correlation values;

a comparison unit ~~including means for comparing~~ operable to compare said maximum correlation value with said threshold, and ~~for outputting~~ further operable to output a one of said plurality of signal sequences for which said maximum correlation value exceeds said threshold value;

an identification code judgment unit ~~including means for determining~~ operable to determine an identification code in accordance to the one of said signal sequences output from said comparison unit ~~and said correspondence table~~; and

an identification code output unit ~~including means for outputting~~ operable to output said identification code.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method, comprising;

inputting coded AV signals;

decoding said coded AV signals to ~~reproduce said~~ generate coded AV signals to be reproduced;

generating an identification code;

converting the identification code into a binary bit string, each position of a specific value bit of the binary bit string indicating a corresponding signal sequence among a plurality of signal sequences;

embedding the binary bit string as a digital watermark ~~containing said identification code in~~ into said ~~input~~ AV signals to be reproduced, wherein digital watermark-embedded AV signals are generated; and

outputting said digital watermark-embedded AV signals ~~containing said digital watermark~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method as set forth in claim 13, wherein said identification code is at least one of an equipment ID of a reproduction equipment, a card ID of an IC card connected to said reproduction equipment, a user ID of a user of the reproduction equipment, a raw material ID of said coded AV signals, a medium ID of a recording medium in which said coded AV signals are stored, a reproduction date and time, and an initial value of a

signal sequence to be embedded among the plurality of signal sequences as said digital watermark.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method as set forth in claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein the plurality of signal sequences are signal sequences having cross correlation values that are smaller than a previously set threshold value.

18. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method as set forth in claim ~~15~~ 13, wherein the step of embedding includes embedding a different signal sequence in each of a predetermined unit of the AV signals to be reproduced.

19. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the step of embedding includes embedding said plurality of signal sequences randomly at the same proportions per fixed time in said AV signals to be reproduced.

20. (Currently Amended) A recording medium, in which watermark-embedded AV signals are recorded by the reproduction method of claim ~~12~~ 13.

21. (Currently Amended) A reproduction equipment specifying method, comprising:

inputting AV signals containing ~~an identification code~~ a binary bit string, each position of a specific value bit of the binary bit string indicating a corresponding signal sequence among a plurality of signal sequences of the same contents as that of a reproduction equipment, the binary bit string being embedded ~~therein~~ in the AV signals as a digital watermark;

recording the plurality of signal sequences;

~~holding a correspondence table of the same contents as that in a reproduction equipment,~~

calculating correlation values of the input AV signals and all of the plurality of signal sequences ~~included in said correspondence table and outputting~~ to output a maximum correlation value among said correlation values obtained;

setting a threshold value for said correlation values;

comparing said maximum correlation value with said threshold value ~~and outputting~~ to output a one of said plurality of signal sequences for which said maximum correlation value exceeds said threshold value;

determining an identification code in accordance with said one of said signal sequences ~~with contents of said correspondence table~~; and

outputting said ~~determined~~ identification code.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A recording medium, in which a reproduction equipment specifying program is recorded, comprising:

inputting AV signals containing ~~an identification code~~ a binary bit string, each

position of a specific value bit of the binary bit string indicating a corresponding signal sequence

among a plurality of signal sequences of the same contents as that of a reproduction equipment,

the binary bit string being embedded ~~therein~~ in the AV signals as a digital watermark;

recording the plurality of signal sequences;

~~holding a correspondence table of a same contents as that in a reproduction~~

~~equipment,~~

calculating correlation values ~~between~~ of the input AV signals and all of the

plurality of signal sequences ~~included in said correspondence table and outputting~~ to output a

maximum correlation value among said correlation values obtained;

setting a threshold value for said correlation values;

comparing said maximum correlation value with ~~said~~ the ~~set~~ threshold value ~~and~~

~~outputting~~ to output a one of the plurality of signal sequence for which said maximum

correlation value exceeds said threshold value;

determining an identification code in accordance with said one of the ~~output~~

signal sequences ~~sequence~~ and said correspondence table; and

outputting said identification code.